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n<sup>o</sup> 236

13

# *Tender Invitation*

To all, to embrace the Secret Visitation  
of the Lord to their Souls.

Writ by that Antient Servant of Christ,

**NICHOLAS GATES**

Of *Alton* in *Hampshire*:

Who departed this Life the 21<sup>st</sup> Day  
of the 10<sup>th</sup> Month, 1707.

With several TESTIMONIES Relating  
to his Gospel-Labours.

Also, an Account of some of his

## Dying Sayings.

Rev. 14. 13. *Blessed are the Dead that die in the Lord,  
from hence forth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they  
may rest from their Labours; and their Works do  
follow them.*

Heb. 11. 4. *By it being Dead, yet Speaketh.*

L O N D O N: Printed and Sold by  
**J. Sowle**, in *White-Hart-Court*, in  
*Gracious-Street*, 1708.

1733

Order of the

To all, to whom the Order of the

NICHOLAS GATES

Of the Order of the

Who departed this life the 21<sup>st</sup> Day  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month, 1733.

With several TESTIMONIES Relating  
to his Death and Burial.



DYING

Printed and Sold by  
J. Smith, in White-Hall-Court, in  
the Strand, 1733.

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A  
TESTIMONY

Concerning  
My Dear Husband.

**I** Having a few Words rests upon my Mind concerning my Dear Husband, whom the Lord hath been pleased to take from me, which is my great Loss, but am satisfied is his great Gain; who was a Man for God in his day, and Zealous for his Truth; whom the Lord had been pleased to endue with a Gift of his Holy Spirit, with which he laboured both in Word and Doctrine; and when the Lord opened his Mouth, he was made very serviceable in the Church. His Care was very great in bringing up his Children in the Truth, which God in

measure hath continued them in. I could not be satisfied without giving in my small Testimony concerning my Dear Husband ;

*Elizabeth Gates.*

this 23<sup>d</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> A  
Month, 1708.

YHOMITSET  
This, and the following Testimonies, concerning that antient Servant, and sincere Minister of Jesus Christ, N. G. and his Epistle, written by his own Hand before his Departure, are not Printed or Published with any other Design, Intent or Purpose, than what follows.

1. For the Honour of God, and Praise of that Power that made him what he, by the Grace of God, was.

2. That all might be excited to follow him, as he followed Christ.

3. To provoke all to love and serve God, and to live to him that Died and Rose again.

4. And to prevail upon all to be so careful and Circumspect, as always to live in the holy Fear of God that Christ taught, that they may be endued more and more with that Wisdom which his Fear is the begin-



beginning of, and that Understanding, as to depart from Iniquity, and know his Secrets, partake of his Mercy, and enjoy his Blessing, and experience his Teachings in the way he chuseth, have Peace to their Souls, and witness his Presence to encamp round about them, and so to have their Conversation coupled with his Fear, that they may adorn the Doctrine of Christ our Saviour, and may see God's Salvation, when time to them shall be no more.

5. Because I know how apt many are to be forgetful of the Lord, their Duty to him, and the wholesom Doctrine and Christian and Exemplary Conversation of those that have spent, and been spent, and have honestly labour'd in Simplicity, freely to publish the Gospel of Peace and Salvation in universal Love, by which they have been constrained so to do, for the Good of Souls, according to the measure of Grace and Gift received from the Giver of every good and perfect Gift.

These things considered, together with what the Apostle said to the Primitive Christians, and for the same Reason, viz. That those in our days who have obtained like precious Faith, through the Righteousness

teousness of God, and our Saviour Jesus  
 Christ, who hath called us to Glory and  
 Vertue, might know an adding to their  
 Faith Vertue, to Vertue Knowledge,  
 Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Bro-  
 therly Kindness and Charity; that these  
 things being in them, and abounding,  
 they may neither be barren nor unfruit-  
 ful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus  
 Christ, nor forgetful how they ought to  
 walk that make that Profession which  
 Christ the Lord is the High Priest and  
 Apostle of; nor may fail of an Entrance be-  
 ing administred unto them abundantly into  
 the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and  
 Saviour Jesus Christ, but through Faith-  
 fulness, may be fruitful in the Knowledge  
 of him. To this End, I say, I am not  
 willing to be negligent to put you in  
 Remembrance of these things, even  
 all, to whose Hands this may come, that  
 make Profession of Christ, and the Re-  
 ligion he is the Author of, and that own  
 the Scriptures, those Holy Writings, that  
 were given forth by Divine Inspiration,  
 and so plentifully testifie unto the Di-  
 vine Light, Spirit and Grace of our  
 Lord Jesus Christ, and its shining in,  
 and appearing unto all Men, to shew  
 what's

[ 7 ]  
what's Evil in God's sight, hurtful to them, and hateful to him that any should continue in; for which the Lord therefore convinceth and reproveth them, and calls them to forsake, and invites all to learn of him, that he by his Grace might teach them to deny all that Ungodliness which is the Cause of the Revelation of his Wrath from Heaven, for this Reason, Because that which is to be known of God, is manifest within them; for God hath shewed it unto them by his Light that shineth in them, by which all things that are reproveable are made manifest; for whatsoever doth manifest is Light; whereby it's evident, that in that *Day when God shall judge the Secrets of Men by Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel,* Rom. 2. 16. none will be able to plead they did not know what was good, or that they were not convinced of their Sin, or that what was reprov'd was not manifested to them to be Evil; or that the Grace that appeared unto them was not sufficient to have brought Salvation unto them, as it did, and doth to those that learn thereof, and follow its Teachings.



[ 5 ]

○ This Servant of Christ, N. G. being a Witnes, and many others, of the sufficiency of the Grace of God; which therefore, it was his Labour, and is the Labour of many, earnestly to invite all to receive and come under its Teachings, that they might have their hearts established in the Grace of God.

And now, that the Labours, Testimony and Memory of this his Servant may be remembred and answered, and be followed as he followed Christ, I give an Account what I esteem he was, *viz.* 1. An Ensamble. 2. One that behaved himself not disorderly. 3. That spoke the Word of God, and therefore his Ensamble ought to be followed, considering the end of his Conversation; for he was also to the Honour of God, and Praise of his Power, made an Elder and a Witnes of Christ; as also Partaker of the Glory that shall be revealed, and fed the Flock of God in divers places, and took the Oversight thereof; not by Constraint, but willingly; not for filthy Lucre, but of a Ready Mind; not as a Lord over God's Heritage, but being an Ensamble to the Flock; and therefore I doubt not his receiving a Crown  
of



of Glory that fadeth not away ; having,  
 I am perswaded, fought a good Fight,  
 finished his Course, and kept the Faith,  
 and loved his Appearing. And there-  
 fore I tenderly, and in much Love, ear-  
 nestly entreat and beseech all, especially  
 those that knew and loved him, ( as I  
 have done many Years ) and that desire  
 to be Christians and Disciples of Christ  
 indeed, to receive that Word that is graft-  
 ed in them, of which he was a Minister ;  
 and that Spirit which Christ promised,  
 the Grace that came by him, that so  
 they also may be his, and saved by him,  
 and by abiding in his Word and doing as he  
 bids them, taking his Counsell, and keeping  
 his Commandments ; believing in him the  
 Light, and walking therein, they may be  
 Children of the Light, and of the Day ;  
 that so from henceforth, none may walk  
 in the Vanity of their Minds, or For-  
 getfulness of God, nor have any fellow-  
 ship with the Unfruitful works of Dark-  
 ness ; but reprove them, and walk in  
 the Light : For if we say, or think  
 we have Fellowship with God, and that  
 we are Christians, and yet walk in Dark-  
 ness, and live in Unrighteousness, we Lye,  
 and do not the Truth : But if we walk  
 in

in the Light, as he is in the Light, we have Fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all Sin; (or Unrighteousness) for all Unrighteousness is Sin, and being cleansed therefrom, is the only way to be fitted to enter into that Kingdom which the Unrighteous cannot inherit, profess and think of themselves what they will. Oh! that all therefore, to whose hands this may come, would think of, and seriously consider these things, while they have a time here, and not slight, disregard, grieve nor rebel against God's Holy Spirit in their Hearts; but turn from what it convinceth and reproves them for, and seek and wait upon God therein, that they may, through the Mercy and Kindness of God to them, (though they have been foolish and disobedient in time past) come to know the Washing of Regeneration and Renewing of the Holy Ghost shed upon them abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that they may be fitted to worship God acceptably, and to pray and live to him, and bring forth the Fruits of it, which are Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Tem-

Temperance and Meekness, for against  
 such there is no Law: And as these  
 Fruits are brought forth, there will be  
 no Hatred, Sorrow, Trouble, Hastiness,  
 Badness, Anger, Unbelief, Roughness  
 nor Intemperance, but all Goodness.  
 Oh therefore, let all be earnestly and  
 heartily concerned, to receive and obey  
 that Light, Spirit and Grace that will  
 make them so! For they that are Christ's,  
 or true Christians, have Crucified the  
 Flesh with the Affections and Lusts: If  
 we therefore profess the Spirit, let us  
 live in the Spirit; and let us not only  
 talk of, but walk in the Spirit; and let  
 us not be desirous of Vain Glory, pro-  
 voking one another, envying one ano-  
 ther; but Followers of God, as Dear  
 Children; and dwell in Love, as all that  
 profess and own God's Love ought to do:  
 So wisheth and prayeth your Friend,

*John Field.*

Written the 18<sup>th</sup> of  
 the 3<sup>d</sup> Month, 1708.



A  
TESTIMONY

Concerning

My Dear Father, *Nicholas Gates*,  
lately Deceased.

**A**Ltho' to mine and many others  
a great Loss, it is, I doubt not, to  
his unspeakable Gain: He gave several  
Living Testimonies to the Truth, in  
the time of his great Illness, and in the  
time of his Health and Strength, choosing  
to do the Lord's Work, and serve his  
People, before his own Business (not  
consulting) Profit or Interest to himself,  
being ready on all Occasions to expose  
himself to Exercises for the Prosperity  
of the Blessed Truth, and the Friends of  
it: And as he was so ready, I have that  
Comfort in my self, that I and my dear  
Mother, were never backward, but free-  
ly given up to make his time easie to  
him



him while abroad; his Journies were not long, as manies are, but often, while in his Strength; and had great Joy when he found he had been an Instrument to gain any one Soul to God; and likewise, full of Sorrow for any that fell away from the Truth, after being, in some measure, quick'ned thereby.— My Father hath, since my remembrance, past through many hard Speeches from many sorts of People, especially those high in Profession, who have manifested themselves to be very Uncharitable and full of Bitterness; but whatever Persecution befel him, either in Body or Goods, or by false Reports, he still bore it with great Patience, having his Mind inward to the Lord, as was his frequent Advice to me, with the Rest of his Children, over whom he had a tender fatherly Care for our Welfare every way, but more especially, our Prosperity in the Truth; never aiming at any thing that was like Heighth or Greatness in the World, but was a true Pattern of Humility and Lowliness, being industrious and labouring in his honest Employment in what he was able to do; often giving a Check to that Spirit that was apt to  
 get

get up into Heighth and Pride, and Rebuking such as were given to foolish Jestings and needless Words, desiring that their Words might be few. I have observed, the nearer his Latter End, the more Inward and Retired he was. And after he was visited with his first Illness, that very much impaired him, as to any Business; it was observed by us, when he came into a Meeting, that nothing of it appeared, he appearing Clearer in his Testimony, very much pressing Friends to be inwardly delighting in the Feeling of the Lord in their own Hearts, having him in their Thoughts, in their lying down, and rising up; going forth, and coming in; so that they might be a Clean People, not allowing themselves in any secret Evil whatsoever. He mentioned a particular Thing, being sensible what was a great Hurt to the Prosperity of Truth; and that was, some Friends having too much Fellowship with the Spirit of the World, more than the Truth did allow of: I finding some concern to come over my Mind several times, to give in these few Lines, as being sensible, in some measure, the Hurt it hath been to me, and do hope, I shall

shall never forget the good Counsel he hath given me and my Dear Children, and Friends in general; his Fewness of Words, Solidness and Grave Deportment in his Family; not giving opportunity to his Children of over familiar Discourse, as many are too apt to do: Notwithstanding all the great Benefits of so dear a Father, and the good Education I, with many more, have had; although it is to be prized as a great Mercy, yet we must all come to know a Work in our selves, of being Regenerated and Born again, as well as many others that have not had this great Priviledge; for Tradition and Education only will not do: This I have been, through the Lord's Mercy, sensible of. So desiring I may, with all the Faithful, to the End of my days, be preserved, to the Praise of the Lord, conclude

*Deb. Hawkins.*

*Several*



*Several of the Sayings of my  
Father, Nicholas Gates, on  
his Death-Bed; who was  
taken Ill: the 10th of the  
10th Month, 1708. and  
Died the 21st ditto.*

**T**He first thing that seemed most to  
concern him, after he was so vio-  
lently seized, was the Care for the  
Church, and to have Friends preserved in  
Unity; and was well satisfied with the  
Lord's Dealing with him, saying, "He  
" had been a Good God unto him all  
" along, and had let him live to a good  
" Old Age, and had been his Support  
" from time to time, and was so in his  
" present Exercises. Another time said,  
" My Days are expiring a pace, but I  
" have lived to see the Goodness of the  
" Lord in the Land of the Living. He  
expressed his Love to my Mother in a ve-  
ry Tender and Affectionate manner, say-  
ing, " He had prayed to the Lord, that  
" he would bless and preserve her and  
" his



" his Children to the end, desiring they  
 " might live together in Love, and  
 " watch over one another therein. He  
 gave many evident Testimonies of the  
 Lord's Goodness to him, saying, " He  
 " did not know, that if he had his time  
 " to live over again, that he could die  
 " better, having the Evidence in him-  
 " self, of *Well done*: Although at times,  
 he did say, " If the Lord did see it fit  
 " to restore him, and he could be an  
 " Instrument to gain more Souls to God,  
 " he should be glad; for that was his  
 " great Joy, when he considered how  
 " he had spent his time in the Lord's  
 " Service. He gave many that came  
 to visit him good Advice, both for their  
 Children, as well as themselves; laying  
 a great Charge to the keeping their  
 Children to the Plain Language, and  
 bringing them up in the Fear and Ad-  
 monition of the Lord; as was his Ad-  
 vice to me for my Children, desiring  
 me to be often asking them Questions,  
 for opening their Understanding, that  
 they might know what God is, and  
 where he is to be found, while they  
 are Young and Tender: He taking my  
 Daughter, *Elizabeth Hopkins*, by the  
 B Hand

Hand, kissed her, and counselled her to be a good Girl, and fear the Lord, and obey her Parents, and to speak the Truth, and do the Truth in every thing, and to go to Meetings as often as she could with her Mother's Consent; adding, if she so did, the Lord would bless her, and take care for her to the Grave. Another time said, " Oh ! that Men, especially Young Men, did know the Comfort of living a Sober Holy Life : And often mentioning several places of Scripture of the Sayings of *David*, and the Apostles Words, which were very Refreshing in his Weakness; but his Speech was very much Impaired by his Distemper, so that it was very hard, sometimes to understand what he said.

A Neighbour coming to visit him, asked how he did; he replied, " Weak, " and am going a pace out of this troublesome World, to a place where " there is neither Sorrow nor Trouble. My Sister *Perry* and I being with him early in the Morning, he took particular notice to me of my Business, desiring me to have an Eye to Truth, and not to ask out of the way in the Price of my Goods, and keep to fewness of Words, saying,  
" Friend

" Friends were formerly known by their  
 " fewness of Words, and keeping to  
 " their Words in their Dealings. Very  
 often desiring Friends to keep to Plain-  
 ness, both in Habit and Speech; warn-  
 ing me, and desiring my dear Mother  
 to watch over my Children, to keep them  
 out of Pride, saying, " There was scarce  
 " a worse Weed then Pride. A Day or  
 two before he died, speaking to my  
 dear Mother, she asking him what he  
 had to say, spoke many sweet Words,  
 saying, " The Door of Entrance was  
 " open into the Kingdom. And there-  
 into, I doubt not, but he is entred, and  
 is at Rest with the Lord.

*Deborah Hawkins.*

toe he was taken ill, he had a very  
 clear Testimony in our Meeting for the  
 Lord and his blessed Truth amongst us;  
 we always lived in love, and thus I can  
 say, our Lot is very great, and  
 greatly is he missed amongst us; but in  
 this

B<sup>2</sup>

*Joan*



*Joan Sley's*

# TESTIMONY.

Written at *Alton*, the 25<sup>th</sup> of the  
3<sup>d</sup> Month, 1708.

**A** Few Words concerning my Dear  
Brother, *Nicholas Gates*: He was  
the first that was Convinced of the Blef-  
sed Truth in this Town; and I can truly  
say, he was a Strength to me in my first  
Convincement and Suffering for the Truth,  
in my Husband's Life time; and after  
the Lord had removed him by Death,  
my Dear Brother was a help to me, both  
for Advice and Counsel: He was a true  
Labourer in the Gospel of our Lord and  
Saviour ~~Jesus~~ Christ. The First Day be-  
fore he was taken Ill, he had a very  
Clear Testimony in our Meeting for the  
Lord and his Blessed Truth amongst us;  
we always lived in Love, and this I can  
truly say, our Loss is very great, and  
greatly is he missed amongst us; but in  
this



this I am satisfied, our Loss is his everlasting Gain. This I did observe, in his latter Years he was very inwardly Retired, and of very few Words: It is the desire of my Soul, that all that knew him, may walk in his Steps: My Daughter went to see him on his Death-bed and her Son with her, to whom he gave good Advice and Counsel, to Remember his Creator in the Days of his Youth, signifying, that now he had nothing to do but to die, which was a Happy State.

Thus I have a little eased my Spirit of what lay upon me, to give in my Testimony for my Dear Brother; and desire the Lord may send forth more Labourers into his Harvest: So remain a Friend to all in the *Blessed Truth*, that changeth not,

*Joan Sley.*

# THE TESTIMONY

OF  
Our *Quarterly-Meeting*, concern-  
ing our Dear Friend Deceased.

**N**icholas Gates, the Elder, of *Alton* in  
*Hampshire*, was a true Servant of  
God, his Church and People, a Faith-  
ful Minister of Jesus Christ; He was an  
Upright Man, and Exemplary in his  
Conversation, a Lover of Hospitality and  
all good Men; was Convinced one of the  
first in these parts; he abode stedfast and  
faithful in the Truth to the End of his  
Days; he was never defiled with the Spi-  
rit of Separation in any of its Dreffes or  
Likenesses, but his Bow abode in full  
Strength, and his Arm was made strong by  
the mighty Power of the God of *Jacob*,  
against all Apostates and Backsliders from  
the holy Truth, that he knew to be such.  
He was a Man that did never shrink from  
Persecution of any sort or kind whatso-  
ever;

ever ; but was a Zealous Promoter of the Gospel, and continually preached it freely : He lived to the Honour of his Maker and Creator, to a good Old Age, and died in his Favour ; for God's Presence was with him to the last. He departed this Life the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of the 10<sup>th</sup> Month, 1707. in the 74<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age ; and on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Friends from many places adjacent and remote, met at his House, and from thence, in a solemn manner, his Body was born by several Antient Brethren, that loved him well, and was carried to the Meeting-house, where divers Testimonies were born by Friends in the Ministry, and from thence carried to the Burying-ground adjacent, where his Body was Decently buried.

Signed by Order, and in Behalf of  
the Meeting, by

*Robert Messer.*



*A Tender INVITATION to all  
who may Read these Lines, to  
embrace the Secret Visitation  
of the Lord to their Souls, by  
his Holy Spirit; written the 9th  
Day of the 7th Month, 1690.  
Being a Testimony of the Ten-  
der Dealings of the Lord to my  
Soul, from my Infancy to this  
Day.*

**I** Can truly say, that from my Child-  
hood, yea, ever since I understood  
there was a God who made the World,  
and all things therein; a Desire hath  
been in me to have the True Know-  
ledge of him; and in my Childhood  
took great Delight in Reading the Ho-  
ly Scriptures, in Hearing of the best  
Reformed Ministers, gave my self often  
to Private Praying to the Lord unknown,  
often uttering Words in private before  
him; until on a time, in my Chamber,  
kneeling down by my Bed-side, as for-  
merly,

merly, in order to utter Words to the Lord, I was stoped from speaking, and it was thus said to me in my Heart, (and I believe by the Lord) *Thou needest not to utter Words, for I know thy Heart and Soul's Desire:* And kneeling a while, arose, and uttered no Words; and from that Day I have believed, that the Lord doth see and hear the Desires, Prayers and Supplications of his People which are offered up to him in secret: And thus I continued, still seeking, and acquainted my self, as much as I could, with the best sort of young Men, and such as used the hearing of the best sort of Preachers; but yet all this while was in Bondage to those Lusts and Temptations that was, and is incident to Youth. Thus I went on, 'till about the Age of One and Twenty Years, when it pleased God, by his blessed Light in my Heart, to open my Understanding, and shewed me my State and Condition, and the Falshoods of the Priests, how they preached for Hire, and divined for Money; from whom I withdrew, and was, as it were, alone, knew not who to join to in Communion or Fellowship; in which time, it pleased God to send some to see  
me

me of those People, in Scorn called *Quakers*, with whom my Soul was affected; their Life and Conversation answering the Witness of God in me, and a Holy Life being the Aim and Endeavour of my Soul, and their Ministry and Preaching was to the Confirming of my Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was always near to me, even in my Heart, though I knew it not; yea, from a Child was I sensible of his Reproofs by his Spirit, though I knew not that it was his Holy Spirit, by which I was in secret Reproved; and many times when I had sinned, I should be smitten, and troubled, and broken into Tears; yet knew not that these Workings were of the Lord: And therefore do give it as my Tender Advice to all, diligently to take heed to the Inward Checks and Reproofs of the Spirit; for I do believe, had I known in my Youth that, that which in the Heart doth Check and Reprove for Sin, was the Spiritual Visitation of Christ to my Soul, I had never persisted in Sin as I did; for when I came to give heed to it, it soon humbled my Soul, and brought me into Bitterness and Lamentation, so that



that I became a Wonder to those that formerly knew me, and became as an Alien to my Father's House, and a Stranger to my former Acquaintance, and was Rejected by my Father, and many times threatned with being Cast off; but the Lord was exceeding good to me in all my Trials, and kept me above the Fear of any Man; though I can say I loved my Father tenderly, as a Child ought to do: Yet when the Lord thus Visited me, and my Soul closed with him, the Lord was more to me than my Earthly Father: And in all Trials and Exercises, as Stoneings, Stockings, Reproachings and Impisonings, and taking away of my Goods, the Lord did still stand by me, and bore me up over all to this Day.

Much more I could say; but thus much was upon me to write, for the Encouragement of all, who do know his Blessed Spirit of Light and Truth, to love and delight their Souls in it above all things in the World, that so thereby thy may come with my Soul to witness an Inheritance among them

them that are Sanctified, to the Praise  
and Glory of the Lord my God; to  
whom be Praises and Thanksgiving gi-  
ven for ever, saith my Soul.

Written with my own Hand, the

Day and Year above-said,

*Nich. Gates, Senior.*

**The E N D.**



